

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at 5:15 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Bernie Erickson, Don Bettine, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins,
Jerry Polus, John Walschinski, John Maino, Joe Witkowski
EXCUSED: Sherry Steenbock, Troy Ness
ALSO PRESENT: Ron Van Dyke, Dave Connahee

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1190**

1. Call Meeting to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:15 p.m.

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOHN WALSCHINSKI, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO APPROVE. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approve/Modify Minutes of May 17, 2011:

Don Bettine wished it be noted that with regard to Item 5, flags were placed on the graves of vets at Fort Howard Memorial Park on Saturday, May 20, 2011 by two Boy Scout troops.

Joe Witkowski also wished it be noted that he should not have been marked as "excused" from the May 17, 2011 meeting, but rather as "absent".

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DONALD BETTINE, SECONDED BY JIM HASKINS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Report By Chairman Bernie Erickson.

Chair Erickson reported that Congressman Ribble had recently been in town for a veterans meeting at the National Guard Armory and Erickson provided the Committee with copies of information Ribble presented. Erickson went on to say that in talking with Ribble, he confirmed that the VA Hospital will definitely be happening soon. The delays occurred because the project was rebid due to changes made as there was extra money available that they wished to utilize. Erickson also informed that he had received an e mail from Ribble's assistant, Kerry Niemcek, stating that he could feel free to refer vets to her if they need a little assistance navigating the system. This e email went on to state "the gals at the Brown County Veterans' Service Office are held in very high regard in northeastern Wisconsin for their service to county veterans. They have provided great help to me too as I learn my duties here and I consider them a great treasure".

Chair Erickson also reported that he had solicited some donations of prizes to be given out at the Fair. Jerry Watson of The Bar donated two framed Superbowl XLV pictures; a representative of Plano Tackle Company donated two soft-sided tackle boxes; Russ's Barber Shop donated a number of haircut certificates; and Jim Pyle of the Green Bay Area Great Lakes Fishing Association donated a half day fishing charter for either a guided perch fishing trip or a walleye fishing trip. This trip has a value of approximately \$350.00. It was decided that there should be two raffle buckets, one for veterans and one for others to be sure that the donated prizes, especially the fishing trip, be won by veterans. Witkowski thanked Bernie for his work in securing these donations and a round of applause followed.

6. Discussion re: Brown County Fair (August 20, 2011).

Jerry Polus indicated that the Pulaski High School band has committed to perform on Saturday, August 20 and will play a medley of patriotic songs. The Committee will be responsible for paying the cost of the bus of \$150.00 as well as providing each band member with a \$5.00 food voucher. Due to the size of the stage, there will be 50 band members coming to perform. John Maino asked if it would be possible to secure a donation for food for the band members, but it was decided that it would be best to buy from one of the service organizations that provides food at the fair. The fair will provide water for the band.

Polus also brought a number of samples of the advertising poster to the meeting and asked the Committee to vote for their favorite. The winner was a sign with a blue background and red lettering. Polus will have 60 posters printed and these should be done by June 27 for anyone interested in picking up signs to display. Tickets will be mailed out to all area veterans organizations and will also be available at key locations in the community as well as in the veteran's office.

Ron Van Dyke of the Fair Board also informed that during the month of July fair tickets will be selling for \$7.00 at various locations which includes admission to the fair, parking, unlimited rides and all other activities.

Polus went on to report that Tom Mahoney will be the master of ceremonies and he will be invited to the next Committee meeting if he is available to go over the agenda. Erickson will also give a brief address and so will County Executive Troy Streckenbach. Polus stated that they also need someone to arrange for the posting of colors and John Walschinski indicated he will ask his VFW Post 7534 if they are available and get back to Polus. With regard to door prizes, in addition to what Erickson has had donated, there will be some tee shirts, and mugs and Maino will also obtain prizes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DONALD BETTINE TO PURCHASE A BOX OF MUGS. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Van Dyke stated that the stage will be set up west of the bathrooms this year which is a little different than in past years. The stage is covered and he will also make arrangements to have a tent set up next to the stage to provide some shade and shelter. There is no rain plan other than possibly moving into the show barn. Van Dyke further stated that he will attempt to have the Fair Board promote the veterans ceremony in their advertising and John Maino also indicated that he would promote this event on the air.

Polus concluded his report by indicating that a new banner is needed for this event that says "Brown County Armed Forces Appreciation Day" to help mark the location of the ceremony. Maino indicated he felt he could secure a donation of a banner and he will work on this.

7. Report form CVSO Jerry Polus:

Polus indicated that John Walschinski had an idea with regard to sponsorship and invited Walschinski to share this with the group. Walschinski stated that he has a goal of establishing a Veterans Sponsorship Alliance for veterans of Green Bay and Brown County. This would be a five year program where a company would contribute a certain amount of dollars per year for five years to provide ongoing funds. He has already secured a tentative commitment from Lazy Boy Furniture Gallery for \$1,000 per year and they have also agreed to provide a recliner for a drawing for veterans. Walschinski felt this alliance is a good thing for Brown County veterans because it will provide a network of sponsorship and donors committed to helping veterans over a period of time. He made up a flyer that he shared with the Committee. He felt that there are a number of companies that will commit to helping veterans if it is approached in the right way. Polus made the suggestion that any sponsorship donations be made payable to the Brown County Veterans Recognition Subcommittee and the Committee would then be able to determine how they wished to utilize the funds. Erickson indicated donors should receive a framed certificate that they could display in their business to show that they support veterans.

8. **Report from Committee Members Present (Bettine, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock, Walschinski & Witkowski):**

- ❖ Donald Bettine stated that he had worked at the welcoming table at the Supermarket of Veterans Benefits recently and felt that the amount of information available to veterans was outstanding; however, he felt that the attendance was not that great. Polus stated that overall it was not well attended and this was possibly attributed to the fact that some of the key vendors did not show up.

Bettine also indicated that an Old Glory Honor Flight left on June 9, another will be leaving on July 27 from Oshkosh and there will be one in August and another in October.

- ❖ Jim Haskins shared some recent newspaper articles, including one from the Press Gazette by Warren Gerds entitled "LZ Lambeau Factors in State Media Awards". Haskins also reported that the Railroad Museum is one of more than 1,300 museums across the country that is currently offering free admission to active duty military members from Memorial Day through Labor Day. More information can be obtained at <http://www.nea.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/faq.html>.

Haskins also shared a poem he had written entitled "Freedom" with the group.

- ❖ John Walschinski recapped his earlier report with regard to his goal of establishing a Veterans Sponsorship Alliance.
- ❖ John Maino reported that the house built for the injured vet in Keshena had been completed and this effort was made possible through volunteer efforts and donations.

Maino also reported that on June 6 he was at an event at Heritage Hill that included a seminar on D Day and there was a panel of veterans from D Day. Duane Pierce also attended this event and said that it was very worthwhile.

- ❖ Duane Pierce indicated that he felt all Memorial Day activities he participated in were well organized and well attended. He also reported that he recently attended a ceremony in a small cemetery in Harshaw, Wisconsin with his Rolling Thunder group. The program was almost 2 ½ hours long and included a helicopter flyover and both he and his wife felt it was a very, very good ceremony and he urged people to attend this in the future. Photos from the event can be viewed at: <http://veteransceremonyharshaw.blogspot.com>.

Duane also reported that on August 27 Rolling Thunder will be holding their third annual bike ride and bike show at The Bar in Rothschild. Registration is from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and the ride starts at 10:30 a.m. More information is attached. Also, on July 9 Pearly Gates in Green Bay will hold their Vietnam Veterans Ride. Registration is from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., a ceremony paying tribute to women veterans will be held at 11:00 a.m. and the ride will leave at noon and return between 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

- ❖ Joe Witkowski reported that he belonged to the Military 20 Year Club in Marinette and on Memorial Day they had rifle honor salutes and Taps at nine different cemeteries in the Marinette – Menominee area. He also wished to mention that he recently read an article that there was a possibility that Category 7 & 8 vets would be excluded from treatment at VA clinics. The final item Witkowski wished to bring to the Committee's attention was the fact that \$100,000 is paid to the family of a soldier that is killed in the military. These funds can be used for any reason such as outstanding debts or unforeseen expenses. The government also pays for transportation, dress uniform, all funeral and burial expenses and stone. He felt that this was information the Committee may not be aware of.
- ❖ Erickson reported that there is currently an exhibit at the Neville Public Museum on the Civil War. This will run for the next several months and he stated that museum admission is free on Wednesday nights after 6:00 p.m.

9. **Such other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

Joe Witkowski introduced a guest he brought, Dave Connaher,

10. **Adjourn.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO ADJOURN AT 6:24 P.M. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The next meeting will be held on July 19, 2011 at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary

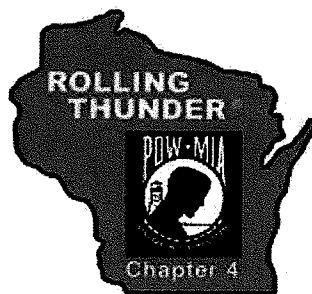


ROLLING THUNDER CHAPTER 4-WI

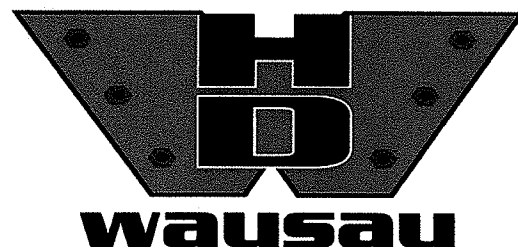
Third Annual



HELPING OUR VETERANS RIDE AND BIKE SHOW



HARLEY-DAVIDSON



Sponsored by: Rolling Thunder - Chapter 4 WI, The Bar, and Harley Davidson of Wausau
Come ride, walk, or just hang out to raise some dough

And Help us to Help Our Local Veterans in Central WI

DATE: Saturday - August 27, 2011
LOCATION: The Bar 10302 Market St. Rothschild, WI
REGISTRATION: 8:30 am to 10:30 am (Ride starts at 10:30 am- bike show is all day)
DONATION: Motorcycles \$20 Cars and Trucks \$20 Walkers \$5
(bike show is free to all but any donation to the vets is appreciated)

FOOD, BEVERAGES AND RAFFLE PRIZES ALL DAY AT THE BAR
Live Music by the BAD DOWNS Starting at 9:30 P.M.

BIKE CLASSES AT BIKE SHOW

American Stock	All Parts came in a box from the manufacturer
American Custom	Anything goes
Metric stock	All Parts came in a box from the manufacturer
Metric Custom	Anything goes
Rat class	Basically think Duct Tape
Barn Bike	Under 1000cc and no newer than 1985 - any make or model

(The type of bike you first started riding that you paid \$400 for and got out of someones barn)

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY, WORKPLACE OR NEIGHBORHOOD AND MAKE THIS A GREAT EVENT FOR OUR VETERANS

